

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY ELLEN
BENNINGER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mary Ellen Benninger who has volunteered her time and talents to our schools in Hillsborough, California for decades. She is being honored tonight as the Citizen of the Year by the Associated Parents Group.

Mary Ellen's dedication to our schools and our community is an inspiration to parents, teachers and students alike. Her leadership and contributions have made Hillsborough's schools the best they can be for our children.

Mary Ellen started to volunteer when her children attended South School and then Crocker Middle School. For the last eight years she served on the Hillsborough City School District Board of Trustees where her board colleagues lovingly call her MEB. She was board president from 2008–2010 and has served on the Citizen Oversight Committee, Bond Finance Committee and as Trustee Liaison to Hillsborough's School Foundation during her tenure.

Wherever Mary Ellen gets involved, her leadership helps set the direction of the organization or initiative she takes on. While on the HCSD board, Mary Ellen simultaneously served as a Hillsborough Recreation Commissioner from 2005–2007 and on the Hillsborough Schools Foundation from 1999–2013. She also volunteered for the South School Parent Group Board, the Hillsborough Little League and Concours d'Elegance and was deeply engaged in passing Measure B. At St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church, she was a Catechism teacher for ten years.

I feel fortunate to count Mary Ellen as a friend and am a long-time admirer of her lasting contributions to our community. She is altruistic, passionate, intelligent and has an extraordinary memory. Her superb service has not gone unnoticed. She received the Eric Award and the South Hillsborough School's Outstanding Service to Youth Award.

Mary Ellen was born in Seattle, Washington. She graduated from Mayo High School in Rochester, Minnesota in 1975 and earned her BA in Economics from Stanford University in 1979. She had a successful career in retail management for 16 years.

In 1986, she married her freshman dorm sweetheart, Tom Benninger. Six years later they moved to Hillsborough and raised their two children Will and Claire. When Mary Ellen is not giving her time, she enjoys tennis, skiing and hiking.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Mary Ellen Benninger whose big heart runs over with love for all children in our tony town of Hillsborough. Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Mary Ellen has made an exceptional life for herself benefitting our entire community.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MASONIC LODGE #74 IN
BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Black River Falls Masonic Lodge #74. The historic building, located in downtown Black River Falls, WI, was built in 1914 to accommodate the growing membership of Lodge #74.

One of the basic purposes of Freemasonry is to "make good men better," and the men and women of Lodge #74 take this purpose to heart. The Free and Accepted Masons that belong to Lodge #74 strive to live by the three core tenets of Freemasonry: brotherly love, relief and truth, and improve character and moral and spiritual outlook. The Freemasons work tirelessly to promote the principles of personal responsibility and morality, and encourage their colleagues to incorporate Freemasonry's lessons into their everyday lives.

The Freemasons of Wisconsin are active in charity work throughout the state. The Charities of the Grand Lodge include the Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc., Three Pillars, The Wisconsin Masonic Foundation, and the Medical Fund. These charities serve thousands of individuals each year through programs that support masonic relief, education, community health, safety, and youth engagement. The Black River Falls Masonic Lodge #74 gives back to the local Black River Falls community in a number of ways. For example, the Lodge holds a pancake breakfast every spring on Palm Sunday where all of the proceeds are used for scholarship and local charity efforts.

It is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the Black River Falls Masonic Lodge #74 on its 100th anniversary and re-dedication. The commitment of its members to bettering themselves and their community is truly deserving of recognition. The Black River Falls community and the state of Wisconsin are fortunate have the Freemasons making a difference in the lives of individuals.

APRIL IS IBS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as IBS Awareness Month.

IBS, or Irritable Bowel Syndrome, is a gastrointestinal disorder that alters how the digestive tract functions.

It can cause extreme pain, alter lifestyles, and cost an individual thousands of dollars on healthcare expenditures.

There is no single cause of IBS, and no single cure.

Studies estimate IBS affects up to 20 percent of the adult population. However, only 5 to 7 percent of the adult population has been diagnosed with the condition.

This is partly because individuals with IBS are less likely to seek treatment.

Many are afraid of the stigma that is associated with the disorder.

People need to know that they don't need to suffer in silence. There are many ways to treat and manage IBS.

The first step is to find out about IBS, and have your questions answered.

As an institution, let's agree to lessen the stigma for IBS patients and urge those who may be affected to find out more and seek treatment.

APPLAUDING THE AFFORDABLE
CARE ACT'S HISTORIC FIRST
OPEN ENROLLMENT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. I rise today to applaud the Affordable Care Act's historic first open enrollment along with the 8 million people who now have the health security they deserve.

And I am proud of the immense contribution California has been to these surging numbers. More than 3 million California consumers enrolled in health insurance plans or in Medi-Cal.

Moreover, after connecting my district to over 20 events and enrolling over 2,300 residents through my "Enroll OC" initiative, Orange County alone represented 10 percent of all California enrollments.

These final enrollment numbers are promising and although we have surpassed our goals, enrollment is only the first step.

We must now shift our focus to educating these new consumers about the services available to them through their health insurance providers.

Therefore, as an effort to educate new consumers in my district, I will be initiating a new campaign and hosting "Know Your Benefits" events throughout Orange County.

And I urge my colleagues to go beyond the kind of work necessary to reach those who the law was meant to help.

CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS FOR A
UNIFIED CYPRUS BETWEEN
GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the continued negotiations between Greek and Turkish Cypriots as critically important towards peacefully resolving the dispute surrounding a unified Cyprus. I am pleased to learn that progress has been made following the issuance of a joint statement that resumed negotiations between Greek Cypriot negotiator Andreas Mavroyiannis and Turkish Cypriot negotiator Kudret Ozersay in February of this year.

The United States remains committed to supporting peace and cooperative relations in the Eastern Mediterranean. Cyprus was, by legend, the birthplace of the ancient Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite. However, its modern history has, in contrast, been largely dominated by enmity between its Greek and Turkish inhabitants. However, I commend President Nicos Anastasiades of the Republic of